

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council - 34746

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council -
34746

3b. GSA Committee No.

34746

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/30/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

04/30/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Sec 101(e)(2)of P.L. 96-472 & Sec. 5(f)(1) of Nat.
Earthquake Haz. Red. Prog. Act of 1977.

13.

Effective Date

06/22/1978

14.

Committee Type

Continuing

14c.

Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

Report Title

11/01/2017

Letter Report to the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program for the National
Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC), November 2017

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

The NEPEC met in Berkeley, California. The Council received briefings on USGS plans to develop a nationwide aftershock forecasting system that responds to needs expressed by many user groups, and on coordination on the composition and dissemination of operational forecasts in California and Cascadia. Following discussion, the Council developed answers to several questions on these topics that were posed by the USGS, toward delivery of a letter report shortly following the meeting.

Start

End

10/16/2017 - 10/17/2017

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$80,000.00	\$85,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$200.00	\$500.00
18d. Total	\$98,200.00	\$112,500.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.25	1.25

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Council provides advice and recommendations to the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on earthquake predictions and related scientific research to issue timely warnings of potential geologic disasters. The Council typically transmits its advice in the form of letter reports.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members shall be experts in the scientific disciplines that bear on earthquake prediction or other relevant disciplines involved in forecasting natural hazards or public response to such forecasts. The Director ensures that the Council provides balanced and authoritative advice by appointing members with expertise across the range of relevant disciplines and who are familiar with earthquake issues across the geographic extent of the Nation.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee is typically convened between 1 and 3 times per fiscal year; the committee was convened for one meeting during FY 2018. The Council may occasionally be required to meet on short notice to address an urgent situation regarding an earthquake prediction or other earthquake emergency; however, there were no such short-notice meetings convened during 2018.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Council is established pursuant to Item 2, page 25 of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program transmitted to the Congress on June 22, 1978, by the President under Sec. 5(f)(1) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 and in furthering the objectives of Sec. 202 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. Sec 101(e)(2) of

Public Law 96-472 requires the Council to continue to exist for the foreseeable future.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The Council will continue to provide advice and recommendations to the Director of the USGS on earthquake predictions and related scientific research.

Designated Federal Officer

Michael L. Blanpied DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Atkinson, Gail	08/24/2015	09/30/2018	University of Western Ontario	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Burgmann, Roland	07/16/2015	05/30/2018	University of California, Berkeley	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Frohlich, Clifford	07/16/2015	09/30/2018	University of Texas Austin	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hough, Susan	07/28/2016	09/30/2019	United States Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Michael, Andrew	07/16/2015	04/30/2018	United States Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Rubin, Allan	07/16/2015	04/30/2018	Princeton University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Scharer, Katherine	06/11/2018	05/31/2021	United States Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shearer, Peter	07/16/2015	09/30/2018	University of California San Diego	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Vidale, John	07/25/2016	09/30/2019	Univeristy of Southern California	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

The Council provides advice and recommendations to the Director of the USGS to issue timely warnings of potential geologic disasters. The Council supports the DOI Strategic Plan goal of Serving Communities, and the USGS Strategic Plan goal of providing assessment of the nation's hazards, risk and resilience to natural disasters.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

(1) The Nation would increase resilience and avert loss of lives, property and productivity if earthquakes could be usefully predicted or their effect more accurately forecast. (2) Expenditures in advance of a predicted earthquake might be averted if authoritative information makes it clear the prediction is in error. (3) Money may be saved if Federal assistance goes only to the most promising lines of earthquake prediction research and precursor monitoring. However, the associated cost savings have not been quantified and a vetted calculation method does not currently exist.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

13

Number of Recommendations Comments

Five recommendations for FY 2018 were delivered via the committee's report delivered November 2017. The report recommended that the agency proceed with implementation of aftershock forecasting, that an improved forecast method be developed, and that a fault-based forecast method for California be available on-demand. Recommendations were also provided on coordination among responsible agencies and councils, and on forecast communication in the Cascadia region, scheduled for October 2017.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

38%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The stated percentage applies to the five recommendations made by the committee in FY 2018. Progress on other recommendations is ongoing. Past recommendations have been fully implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

54%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The stated percentage applies to the five recommendations made by the committee in FY 2018.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Via email to Council members, and in staff briefings at Council meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Council reviewed and approved USGS implementation of an Operational Aftershock Forecast system for the nation. USGS is now proceeding with final steps needed to implement the required software and to design and deploy the associated forecast information products tailored for specific user decision-making.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/aboutus/nepec/>